Appl. No. 10/731,623
Amdt. dated May 28, 2008
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1.   (Previously presented)   A method of intercepting a transaction
2 instantiated by a database application to determine if an electronic signature is necessary to
3 commit the transaction to the database, the method comprising:
4   in response to a triggering action generated by the database application, calling an
5 application program interface to raise an event indicative of a signature collection process;
6   initiating a workflow process defined by the event that initiates the transaction
7 instantiated by the database application with the database without committing the initiated
8 transaction to the database;
9   executing a rule specified by the workflow process to determine if an electronic
10 signature is required to approve the transaction; and
11   if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is
12 required for the initiated transaction to be committed to the database, instantiating the signature
13 collection process.

1   2.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein calling the
2 application program interface comprises calling the application program interface based on an
3 event name and an event id.

1   3.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein instantiating
2 the signature collection process comprises instantiating either a synchronous collection process
3 or an asynchronous collection process.

1   4.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 3 wherein calling the
2 application program interface comprises calling the application program interface based on an

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3   event name, an event id and an indication of whether the signature collection process is a

4   synchronous process or an asynchronous process.

1   5.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein the

2   workflow process generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the initiated

3   transaction prior to the initiated transaction being committed to the database.

1   6.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 5 wherein the

2   electronic record comprises unstructured data.

1   7.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 6 wherein the

2   unstructured data comprises extensible markup language data stored in character large object

3   (CLOB) format.

1   8.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 7 wherein the

2   extensible markup language data comprises a first well-formed extensible markup language

3   document that comprises extensible markup language fields generated from a mapping to fields

4   in a database and a second well-formed extensible markup language document that comprises the

5   electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature collection process.

1   9.   (Original)   The method of claim 5 further comprising:

2   obtaining an electronic signature in response to the signature collection process;

3   and

4   thereafter, verifying the electronic signature and, if the electronic signature is

5   verified, updating a field of the electronic record to indicate a valid signature was received.

1   10.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 9 further comprising

2   committing the initiated transaction to the database if the electronic signature is verified.

1   11.   (Previously presented)   A computer system comprising:

2   a processor;

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3   a database; and

4   a computer-readable memory coupled to the processor, the computer-readable

5 memory configured to store a computer program;

6   wherein the processor is operative with the computer program to:

7   (i) call an application program interface to raise an event indicative of a

8 signature collection process in response to a triggering action generated by the database

9 application;

10   (ii) initiate a workflow process defined by the event that initiates the

11 transaction instantiated by the database application with the database without committing the

12 initiated transaction to the database;

13   (iii) execute a rule specified by the workflow process to determine if an

14 electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and

15   (iv) instantiate the signature collection process if execution of the rule

16 results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the initiated transaction to be

17 committed to the database.

1   12.   (Previously presented)   The computer system of claim 11 wherein

2 the processor is operative with the computer program to call the application program interface

3 based on an event name and an event id.

1   13.   (Previously Presented)   The computer system of claim 11 wherein

2 the signature collection process can be either a synchronous collection process or an

3 asynchronous collection process.

1   14.   (Previously presented)   The computer system of claim 11 wherein

2 the workflow process generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the

3 initiated_transaction prior to the initiated transaction being committed to the database.

1   15.   (Previously Presented)   The computer system of claim 14 wherein

2 the electronic record comprises unstructured data.

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1   16.   (Previously Presented)   The computer system of claim 15 wherein
2 the unstructured data comprises extensible markup language data stored in character large object
3 (CLOB) format.

1   17.   (Previously Presented)   The computer system of claim 16 wherein
2 the extensible markup language data comprises a first well-formed extensible markup language
3 document that comprises extensible markup language fields generated from a mapping to fields
4 in a database and a second well-formed extensible markup language document that comprises the
5 electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature collection process.

1   18.   (Previously presented)   The computer system of claim 15 further
2 comprising:
3   obtaining an electronic signature in response to the signature collection process;
4 and
5   thereafter, verifying the electronic signature and, if the electronic signature is
6 verified, updating a field of the electronic record to indicate a valid signature was received.

1   19.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 11 wherein the
2 processor is further operative with the computer program to commit the ~~imitated~~ <u>initiated</u>
3 transaction to the database if the electronic signature is verified.

1   20.   (Previously presented)   A computer program product having a
2 computer-readable storage medium storing a set of code modules which when executed by a
3 processor of a computer system cause the processor to intercept a transaction instantiated by a
4 database application to determine if an electronic signature is necessary to commit the
5 transaction to the database, the computer program product comprising:
6   code for calling an application program interface to raise an event indicative of a
7 signature collection process in response to a triggering action generated by the database
8 application;

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9   code for initiating a workflow process defined by the event that initiates the

10 transaction instantiated by the database application with the database without committing the

11 initiated transaction to the database;

12   code for executing a rule specified by the workflow process to determine if an

13 electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and

14   code for instantiating the signature collection process if execution of the rule

15 results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the initiated transaction to be

16 committed to the database.

1   21. (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 20

2 wherein the code for initiating the workflow process comprises code for generating an electronic

3 record that captures data associated with the initiated transaction prior to the initiated transaction

4 being committed to the database.

1   22. (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 20

2 wherein the electronic record comprises unstructured data.

1   23. (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 22

2 wherein the unstructured data comprises extensible markup language data stored in character

3 large object (CLOB) format.

1   24. (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 23

2 wherein the extensible markup language data comprises a first well-formed extensible markup

3 language document that comprises extensible markup language fields generated from a mapping

4 to fields in a database and a second well-formed extensible markup language document that

5 comprises the electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature collection process.

1   25. (Previously presented)   A method for committing database

2 transactions, the method comprising:

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3   generating information indicative of one or more triggering conditions associated
4 with an event indicative of a signature collection process and processing that occurs when the
5 event is evoked;
6   in response to determining that the one or more triggering conditions are satisfied
7 by a database program, calling an application program interface to raise the event;
8   invoking a portion of the processing that occurs when the event is evoked to
9 initiate a transaction instantiated by the database application with a database without committing
10 the transaction instantiated by the database application to the database;
11   invoking a workflow process that executes a set of rules to determine whether an
12 electronic signature is required to approve an electronic record representative of the pre-
13 committed transaction instantiated by the database application; and
14   generating an indication of results of the signature collection process with the
15 electronic record prior to committing the transaction instantiated by the database application to
16 the database.

1   26.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 25 further comprising:
2   committing the transaction instantiated by the database application to the database
3 in response to an approval of the electronic record during the signature collection process.

1   27.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 25 further comprising:
2   rolling back the transaction instantiated by the database application with the
3 database in response to disapproval of the electronic record during the signature collection
4 process.